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9/16/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	Docket No. DN2001057
Georges Marcel Victor Thielen, et al.)	Confirmation No. 8170
For: SILICA FILLED MULTI-)	Art Unit: 1713
VISCOELASTIC RESPONSE)	Examiner: Lee, Rip A.
RUBBER)	
Serial No.: 10/084,890)	
Filed: February 27, 2002)	

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 9, 2003.

Jacalyn Kelly 09-09-03
(Jacalyn Kelly) **(Date of Signature)**

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 11, 2003, Applicants respond as follows.

Remarks

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colvin et al., EP 0 942 042 (Colvin EP '042), or in the alternative over Colvin EP'042 in view of Zanzig et al., U.S. 5,614,580 (Zanzig '580) or Agostini et al., U.S. 5,674,932 (Agostini '932). These rejections are traversed.

Applicants agree with the Examiner insofar as the disclosure in Colvin EP '042 differs from the current claims in that the point of entry of ZnO in the mixing process of Colvin EP '042 is not specified, while in the current claims ZnO is included specifically in the productive stage of mixing, and is specifically excluded in the non-productive stage. However, Applicants do not agree with the Examiner that one having ordinary skill in the art would find it obvious to arrive at the present claims, i.e., to add ZnO in the productive stage, "because there is a limited number of options to the procedure, i.e., ZnO can be added either in the non-productive stage or in the productive stage."